

An amended page 7 of the specification follows as page 3 of this response.

Kindly amend claims 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 21. Pages 4-10 set forth amendments to these claims and give the status of all claims.

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AMENDMENT TO SPECIFICATION

In use, a screen plate according to a preferred embodiment of the invention is in the form of a cylinder, with the cylinder wall strips 12 and spacers 18 (best shown in Figures 9 and 10) vertically oriented with slots passing through the wall from the interior to exterior of the cylinder. The face of the screen plate 10 of 5 Figure 9 corresponds to the interior cylindrical surface S-S of the screen plate as it appears in Figure 10.

As noted above, strips and spacer performs are assembled and metallurgically bonded throughout their intercontacting surfaces. Metallurgical bonding is a technique known to those skilled in the art and is disclosed in United States Patent No 5921486 which states that copper brazing and high temperature diffusion welding are used for metallurgically bonding components in papermaking refiner plates.

Various changes may be made to the structure embodying the principles of the invention. The foregoing embodiments are set forth in an illustrative and not in a limiting sense. The scope of the invention is defined by the claims 10 appended hereto.